

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

700 GOVERNORS DRIVE

PIERRE, SD 57501-2291

**PHONE:** 605-773-3495

**FAX:** 605-773-5246

**WEB:** [dss.sd.gov](http://dss.sd.gov)



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**ATTENTION:**        **Providers and Billing Professionals**

**FROM:**             **South Dakota Medicaid**

**RE:**                 **American Indians and Alaskan Native Cost Sharing**

A provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes an exemption from out of pocket costs for all American Indians and Alaska Natives who have ever received a service from the Indian Health Service, tribal health programs, or under contract health services referral. This will affect South Dakota Medicaid recipients that are subject to a copayment for medical services. This exemption does not apply to Long Term Care services.

Because this exemption may not apply to all American Indians/Alaskan Natives, we are implementing changes in our claims processing system and eligibility system to make it easier for providers and recipients to determine appropriate co-payment amounts.

- Pharmacy Services

South Dakota Medicaid has updated the Pharmacy Point of Sale and the Eligibility system to reflect these changes. When processing pharmacy claims, providers will see the exemption reflected in the copayment due from the recipient

- Primary Care Services

If you are a primary care provider serving one of the affected recipients, you will receive information reflecting which recipients are exempt from copayment. Additionally, the recipients will also receive this information.

- Other Services

If you have questions about co-payment amounts for other services, please feel free to give our telephone service unit a call at 1-800-452-7691 (in-state providers) or 605-945-5006 (out-of state providers). You can obtain recipient specific information about applicable co-payments.

In the coming months, South Dakota Medicaid will be updating its eligibility inquiry system to reflect the amount of copayment due from recipients. We will continue to keep you informed as those additional enhancements are implemented.